



Human Rights Now

7F Creative One Akihabara Bldg. 5-3-4

Ueno Taito-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN 110-0005

<http://hrn.or.jp/eng/>

Phone: +81-3-3835-2110 Fax: +81-3-3834-1025

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Speaker: Nicolás Torres Vieira

Thank you, Mr. President.

The brutal crackdown on Rohingya perpetrated by Myanmar's security forces and persons acting under their direction from August 2017 has caused catastrophic suffering. Refugees interviewed by Human Rights Now reported mass killings, torture, forced starvation, systematic rape and sexual violence against women and children. Reports and existing evidence indicate that the atrocities targeting Rohingya were an orchestrated ethnic cleansing campaign implicating all levels of the Myanmar security forces.

The details of the June agreement for refugees' repatriation should be publicly released and Rohingya communities must be consulted to avoid a recurrence of violence. Conditions in Rakhine state reportedly cannot ensure returning Rohingya's safety and protection of their rights necessary for their return. Ending impunity by providing accountability for these crimes is thus an essential step for Rohingya to safely return.

We welcome the ICC's prosecution request over the deportation of Rohingya. However, it is critical that the ICC address the full-scale of human rights and humanitarian violations committed against Rohingya since August 2017.

Mr. President,

We urge Myanmar authorities to end and prevent abuses against Rohingya, allow access to affected regions for humanitarian aid and international investigation, and ensure refugees' citizenship, security, and basic rights on their return.

We further request this Council or the General Assembly to establish an international accountability mechanism to investigate and facilitate prosecution until a robust accountability process is established through the ICC or other UN mechanism, and we request this Council to pass a strong resolution to ensure justice and accountability, including the establishment of an accountability mechanism.

Thank you.